

No 28

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

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TELEGRAPH BRANCH

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

Action

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FROM: Se Lgrade

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10: Secretary of State

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NO: 2000, June 27, 10 p.m.

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Emo Officer had 3 hour conference June 24 with Rejep
Bete, President Albanian Emigre Society, at Pristina
(Kosmet). Meeting not (rpt not) surreptitious but not
(rpt not) arranged through Fed Govt.

Beca about 30 years old. Former officer engineer unit Alb army, fled to Yugo about 18 months ago. Had been member Alb CP connected with XOXE group. Was elected President of Alb Emigre Society at inaugural meeting early May probably because he was one of very few emigres with education and leadership qualities.

Beca impressed as sincere patriot unfamiliar with Marxist dogma; pro-Western and particularly pro-American. Calls himself "Nationalist Communist" following Tito line, but actually much more nationalist than Communist. Said Alb people suffering intolerably under Russian occupation, would overthrow regime with minimum outside help. Hopes USA would provide needed assistance. Grateful to Yugo Govt for haven but thinks Yugo too weak and poor to provide revolutionary assistance. Yugo activity in Alb now (rpt now) confined to assisting refugees cross frontier. (About 60 per month now (rpt now) crossing). Most of 5000 refugees now (rpt now) in Yugo are non-political, glad to have opportunity escape into free world of which they regard FPRY as part.

Insurgents and propaganda active in Alb but unable secure following. Alb people do not (rpt not) want to trade in one form domination for another. Their only desire is independence.

Said VOA widely listened to in Alb, its message spread all over country by word of mouth. Added VOA would be much more effective if less general world news and more discussion Alb situation. Alb people need to know that outside world aware of their plight. . . .

Ostensible purpose Alb emigres society integration exiles into Kosmet society; provide housing, jobs, teach skills

and language.

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2-2600, June 27, 10 p.m., from Belgrade.

and language. Org is active in these fields and has apparently done no (rpt not) political work up to now (rpt not). Exiles appear reasonably satisfied with treatment, which has enabled them maintain living standard equal with native population.

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Emb appeared somewhat unsophisticated politician and might therefore possibly be used as tool by Yugo Govt if it should in future attempt push its influence into Alb. He is apparently not (rpt not) being so used at present, and his integrity and simplicity might make him difficult for anyone to maneuver. Emb does not (rpt not) believe he is potential source of danger to US policy in Alb since genuine independence that country seems his continued goal.

Emb officer on lookout for signs Yugo-sponsored militant Albanian organization but found none. For present at least emigre society appears serve purely welfare and cultural functions. Despatch pouched.

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